

cilled after his new species " = this or that species " and a lot of them have been redescribed as new, when the plant actually came to hand. Is it any wonder that Christensen has over 22,000 names for a little less than 6,000 plants? The practical lesson of the story is:

1. Make a study of geographic distribution in its relation to specific limitations.\*

2. Consider type locality as a fundamental part of a plant description. It is the lack of this element that makes Christensen's *Index* just short of the ideal.

3. Beware of any species with a wide range as recorded in *Synopsis Filicum* or that has an extended synonymy † either there or in *Species Filicum*; there are few species of world-wide distribution and there will be sure to be something wrong with wholesale slaughter; these are danger marks not to be disregarded.

4. Synonyms and homonyms are still important factors in taxonomy.

We commend the above suggestions to the prayerful attention of European fern students.

## A HYBRID LESPEDEZA

BY KENNETH K. MACKENZIE

Ten years ago, while on a botanical trip in southern Missouri, I ran across a procumbent *Lepedeza* with yellowish flowers. The plant was rare and was referred to *Lepedeza hirta* (L.) Ell., with many misgivings. Later, in an article on the Lepedezas of Mis-

\* Scores of plants from America have been referred to species originally described from Mauritius. Such a conception of geographic distribution is absurd on the face of it, and every new examination of types from the two countries only serves to confirm their distinctness. One great desideratum of American fern students to-day is authentic material from Mauritius to enable us to straighten out the Hookerian muddles of just this sort.

† In the present case the citation of Brackenridge was more simple at Kew than it would be in New York, since Kew is one of the fortunate institutions that possesses a copy of the rare work of Brackenridge on the Ferns of Wilkes' Exploring Expedition. Here at New York we have to consult the nearest copy at New Haven, or else as in the present instance trouble Yale's obliging professor of botany, Dr. A. W. Evans, whose kindness in furnishing quotations I most thankfully acknowledge.

souri (Trans. St. Louis Acad. Sci. 12 : 11) Mr. B. F. Bush and myself were obliged again to refer this plant as above, as "a slender decumbent form."

In the years since this collection I had never until this last year seen another specimen of this peculiar plant either living or in any herbarium. My pleasure therefore can be imagined when in botanizing on the high rocky hill about a mile to the west of the D. L. & W. R. R. station at Mt. Arlington, Morris County, New Jersey, the plant was again found in much the same situation as before. Again it was rare, but the one or two plants seen were large, vigorous, and conspicuous. In aspect the plants had a strong resemblance to *Lespedeza repens* (L.) Bart., the long procumbent stems spreading for a distance of 5-9 dm. in every direction from a common center. The yellowish-white flowers and the longer sepals, however, at once showed that the plant could not be referred here. On the other hand, the procumbent character of the plant, its much greater slenderness in all its parts, its much less developed inflorescence and shorter, less hairy sepals forbade its continued reference to *Lespedeza hirta*. In fact, it can best be described as very nearly exactly intermediate between the two widely separated species referred to above.

In view of the rarity of the plant, of its occurrence in both stations where found with *Lespedeza hirta* and *L. repens*, and of its intermediate characters, I have come to the conclusion that this plant is a natural hybrid between these two species and would here describe it as follows :

### *Lespedeza hirta* × *repens*

Perennial with many procumbent stems 6-9 dm. long, radiating from a common center : stems pubescent, but little branched, slender : leaflets oval or elliptic, strongly appressed-pubescent on both sides, the larger 2-2.5 cm. long, about 1.5 cm. broad, rounded (not retuse) at apex, mucronulate, exceeding the petioles : flowers in slender rather few-flowered spikes, on peduncles 2-5 cm. long and much exceeding the leaves : sepals appressed-pubescent, the margins ciliate, linear-lanceolate, 3 mm. long, about one-half the length of the corolla : corolla yellowish-white, the standard with a purplish spot in the center, and the tips of the

wings and keel more or less tinged with purple; wings and keel nearly equal, exceeded by standard: either abortive petaliferous spikes or undeveloped apetalous flowers occur in the axils of some of the petioles: no pods seen.

Specimens seen: NEW JERSEY, Mt. Arlington, *no. 2328, Mackensie*, 26 August, 1906; MISSOURI, Eagle Rock, *Mackensie*, 28 September, 1896.

### SHORTER NOTES

CORALLORHIZA MACULATA RAFINESQUE. — In *Leaflets* (1: 237. 1906), Professor Greene takes up the name *Cladorhiza maculata* Raf. (*Am. Mo. Mag.* 1: 429. 1817) for the species long known as *Corallorhiza Wisteriana* Conrad (*Journ. Philad. Acad.* 6: 145. 1829), and makes what purports to be the new combination *Corallorhiza maculata*. Rafinesque's description, though brief, cannot, as Professor Greene indicates, refer to any other species of the genus in the northeastern states. That Rafinesque first noticed the species in the vicinity of Philadelphia, as Professor Greene surmises, seems doubtful in the light of a second note by Rafinesque, in which he writes:

"*Corallorhiza maculata*. Roots branched, palmate articulate, stem round, sheaths acute; raceme loose, flowers drooping, sepals lanceolate, nearly obtuse, labellum recurved elliptic white, red spotted, auriculated on each side of the base, toothed and obtuse at the apex. \* \* \* This grows in the shady woods of Long Island near Flatbush, Flushing, Oyster-bay, etc.: it blossoms in July and August, the whole plant is yellowish, size about one foot." (*Am. Mo. Mag.* 2: 119. D 1817.) This gives a definite type locality for the species and it would be interesting to know whether the species is still to be found in the localities indicated by him.

HOMER D. HOUSE.

CLEMSON COLLEGE, S. C.

IPOMOEA TRILOBA L. IN THE PHILIPPINES. — In 1837, Blanco described a Philippine plant, which seemed to him distinct from any Linnaean species, as *Convolvulus dentatus*. As this name